

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-20 L-03 AGR-20 IGA-02

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10

TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 /147 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK:MRC

APPROVED BY S/NM:AMBASSADOR HANDLEY

NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

NEA/RA:TGRANT (INFO)

AID/ASIA:JCORR (INFO)

NEA:LBLAINGEN

NEA:RPDAVIES

----- 032254

R 191936Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227866

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: HANDLEY MEETING WITH PAK AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 222211

1. AMBASSADOR HANDLEY ASKED PAK AMBASSADOR SULTAN KHAN TO COME IN FOR REVIEW OF US-PAK DISCUSSIONS ON MEASURES TO CONTROL OPIUM PRODUCTION IN PAKISTAN. AMB. HANDLEY EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN WITH WHAT APPEARED DURING RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN ISLAMABAD, TO BE AN EROSION OF THE CONCEPT OF SETTING A DEFINITE TIMETABLE FOR ENDING POPPY PRODUCTION IN THE SETTLED AREAS. WHILE WE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY PM BHUTTO'S STATEMENT PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY, WE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR BILATERAL TALKS HAD BEGUN TO SLIDE OFF COURSE IN RECENT WEEKS.

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2. THE USG, AMB. HANDLEY CONTINUED, WAS HOPEFUL THAT

THE PRESENT TALKS WOULD PRODUCE AGREEMENT ON A FIRM TIMETABLE FOR ENDING ALL PRODUCTION IN THE SETTLED AREAS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY SIMILAR AGREEMENTS FOR THE MERGED AND TRIBAL AREAS WHERE WE RECOGNIZED THAT THINGS WERE MORE COMPLICATED. THE GOP SHOULD BE AWARE THAT USG SUPPORT IN THIS AREA TO A LARGE EXTENT WILL DEPEND ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLEAR TIMETABLE .

3. WE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER REPORTS THAT THE GOP WAS CONSIDERING EXTENDING LICENSING INTO THE MERGED AREAS FOR THE FIRST TIME. THIS WOULD ONLY CREATE A VESTED INTEREST IN THESE AREAS FOR INDEFINITE CONTINUATION OF OPIUM PRODUCTION. THIS SEEMED TO US ANOTHER INDICATION THAT GOP COMMITMENT TO ENFORCEMENT OF A PHASED BAN ON POPPY PRODUCTION WAS ERODING.

4. AMB. HANDLEY RECALLED THAT THOSE WHO WISHED TO EFFECT AN ORDERLY, COOPERATIVE EFFORT ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL HAD HAD A VERY CLOSE CALL THIS YEAR WITH THE HARTKE AMENDMENT. WE ARE ALL EMBATTLED AT TIMES BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE A SIMPLISTIC VIEW OF HOW THINGS CAN BE DONE. WE WILL NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET FROM OUR PAKISTANI FRIENDS IN ACHIEVING IN THIS REGARD EFFECTIVE COOPERATION ON THIS PROGRAM. AMB. HANDLEY EXPLAINED THE CURRENT STUDY BY THE GAO OF USG EFFORTS TO CONTROL INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. HE ADDED THAT A GAO TEAM WOULD SOON BE VISITING PAKISTAN FOR AN INTENSIVE REVIEW OF US-PAK COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD.

5. SULTAN KHAN UNDERTOOK TO RELAY THESE POINTS BOTH TO JAFAREY AND TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY. RUSH

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